SPAWN
Image
340
DIGITAL EDITION
McCONVILLE
BARBERI
RAMOS
SPEARS

SPAWN
image
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340
DIGITAL EDITION

WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 23

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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Spawn and Haunt infiltrate heaven and are shocked by what they discover. Meanwhile Urizen begins to assemble his Horsemen.

image

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IT HAD BEEN FORETOLD THAT WHEN PENEMUE CAME OF AGE, HE WOULD SERVE IN HEAVEN'S ARMY.
HE CAME FROM A LONG, PROUD BLOODLINE OF WARRIORS; HIS FATHER SLEW THE HEBDAGON AND BOTH HIS SISTERS FOUGHT DURING THE BURNING NIGHT.
HE HAD RECEIVED THE HIGHEST DISTINCTION UPON GRADUATING BY BEING TOUTED AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR SQUADRON LEADER.
BUT HE WAS ALSO PART OF THE GENERATION WHO ENLISTED RIGHT BEFORE THE DEAD ZONES WERE LOCKED, AND SO HE WAS NEVER GIVEN THE CHANCE TO TASTE REAL COMBAT.
FOR AS LONG AS HE REMEMBERS, HE'S HUNGERED FOR THE MOMENT WHEN HE'D BE ABLE TO PROVE HIS METTLE.

THOUGH, NOTHING CAN PREPARE YOU FOR A BATTLE WITH...
SHUNK
...A HELLSPAWN.
ESPECIALLY THIS PARTICULAR HELLSPAWN.

I'LL GIVE YOU AN OPTION...
TELL ME WHERE YOU HIDE YOUR WEAPONS TO NEUTRALIZE HELLSPAWN.
AND WHERE TO FIND AN ANTIDOTE FOR DEMONSBANE POISON.
OR-- I KILL YOU.
"FORGIVE ME, SINN, IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO THAT I CAN'T RECALL EXACTLY WHO THE FIRST ONE WAS TO TRY AND TAKE *YOUR* THRONE."

THE TOWER OF WRATH

8th REALM OF HELL

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER THOUGH, BECAUSE ONCE THE FIRST TRAITOR CAME, THE ***FLOODGATES OPENED*** AND WE PLUNGED INTO A POLITICAL CRISIS THAT TOOK CENTURIES TO RESOLVE.

"WITHOUT THAT THREAT HANGING OVER US, HOWEVER, EVERY LORD WITH A COUPLE HUNDRED SOLDIERS SUDDENLY FELT EMBOLDENED TO ***STAKE*** A CLAIM OF THEIR OWN."

"AND IF WE'D STILL HAD TO WORRY ABOUT WARRING WITH HEAVEN, I SUSPECT THINGS MAY HAVE TURNED OUT ***DIFFERENTLY***. WE WOULD'VE COALESCED AROUND A NEW RULER FAR SOONER.

"OF COURSE, NONE OF *THEM* LASTED LONG BUT AT THE HEIGHT OF THE WAR, THERE WERE STILL A *DOZEN* VIABLE CONTENDERS.
"THE PROBLEM WAS, NONE HAD THE NUMBERS OR SUPPORT NECESSARY TO SECURE A *DECISIVE,* LASTING VICTORY.
"THAT RESULTED IN AN ARMS RACE, WITH EACH SIDE SCRAMBLING TO CREATE A *WEAPON* POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK.

"EVENTUALLY, A YOUNG LORD NAMED DIALON GALE WON."

YOU REMEMBER LORD ODEONI? GALE WAS THE LATEST IN HIS LINE.
I REMEMBER ODENI'S *COWARDICE.*
YES, WELL GALE IS THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF HIS ANCESTOR.
POLITICALLY ASTUTE. WELL FORTIFIED. HE WAS ALSO SMART ENOUGH TO ALLY HIMSELF WITH THE STYGIAN *NECROMANCERS* QUITE EARLY ON.

"THAT ALLIANCE RESULTED IN *'THE CATACLYSM,'* A NEW BREED OF WARRIOR DESIGNED TO REPLACE HELLSPAWNS."
I KNOW THE SYMBIOTE WAS YOUR PET CREATION, SINN, BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THE HELLSPAWNS ARE BECOMING A RELIC. A NEW WARRIOR LIKE THIS WAS OVERDUE.
WHO, OBVIOUSLY, *DIDN'T* WORK OUT.
AND WHO IS THIS CATACLYSM?

"MANY BELIEVE HE WAS A SIMPLE FOOT SOLDIER IN DIALON'S ARMY WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR THE NECROMANCERS' EXPERIMENTS.
"HIS ENTRY CHANGED THE WAR AND HELPED ESTABLISH DIALON AS THE FRONT-RUNNER FOR THE THRONE.
"BUT, IT WAS NEVER IN DOUBT WHO WAS *REALLY* THE DRIVING FORCE."

"EMERGING FROM THEIR RANKS, HE ALSO HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING GREATLY ADMIRED BY MANY OF THE ARMIES.

"WHEN IT CAME TIME TO LAUNCH HIS COUP, HE WAS ABLE TO HARNESS THIS ADMIRATION TO DEVASTATING EFFECT."
I'VE HEARD SOME ACCOUNTS CLAIM HE SLAUGHTERED OVER 500 DIALON LOYALISTS HIMSELF.

BECAUSE HIS POWERS ARE FROM OBSIDIA, NOT NECROPLASM.
"CATACLYSM'S ENTIRE BODY IS INFUSED WITH IT."

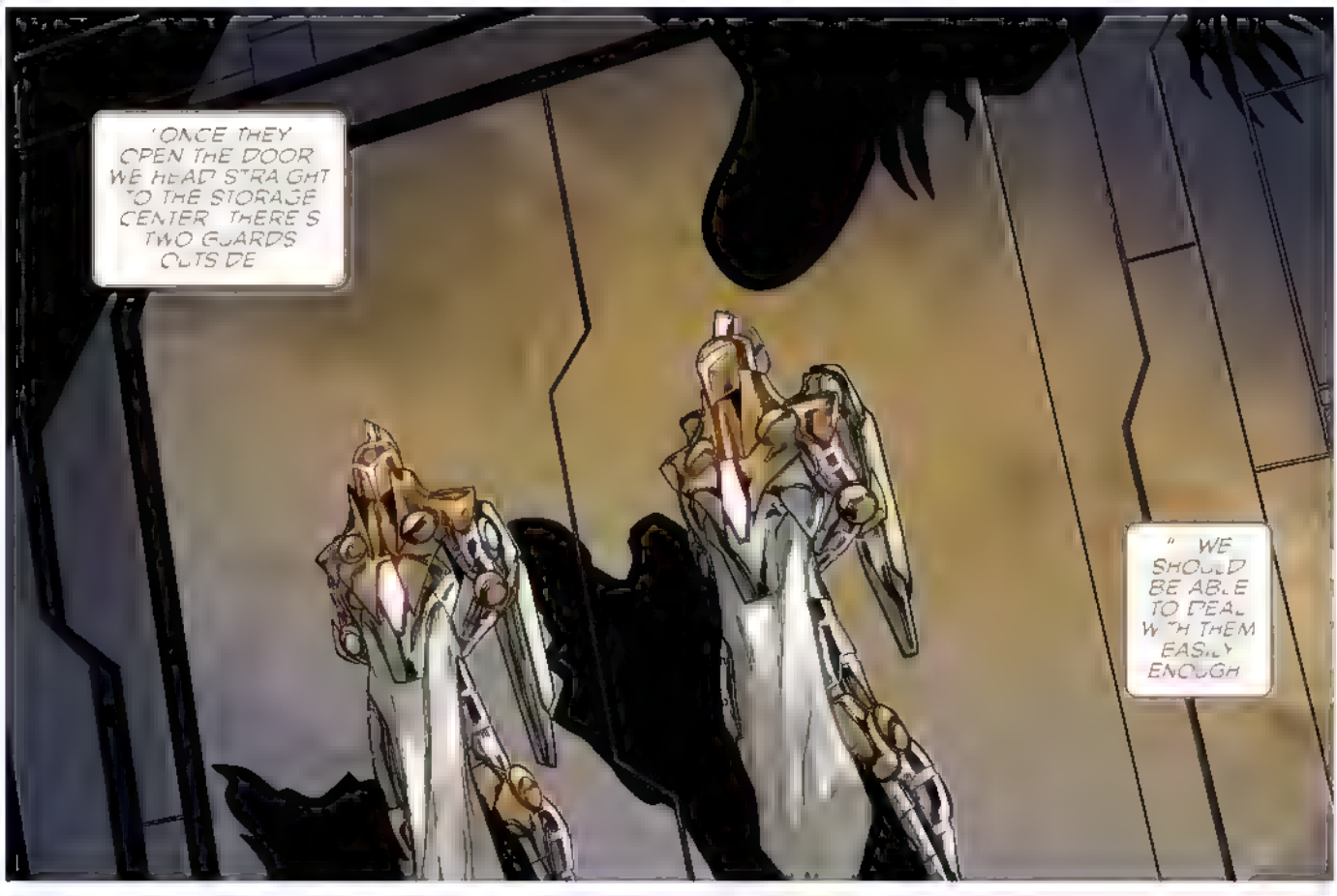
THAT'S THE ONE AREA YOU MAY BE ABLE TO FIND AN OPENING WITH THE OTHER NINE VICEROYS.
YOU'LL NEED A MAJORITY IF YOU WANT TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS.

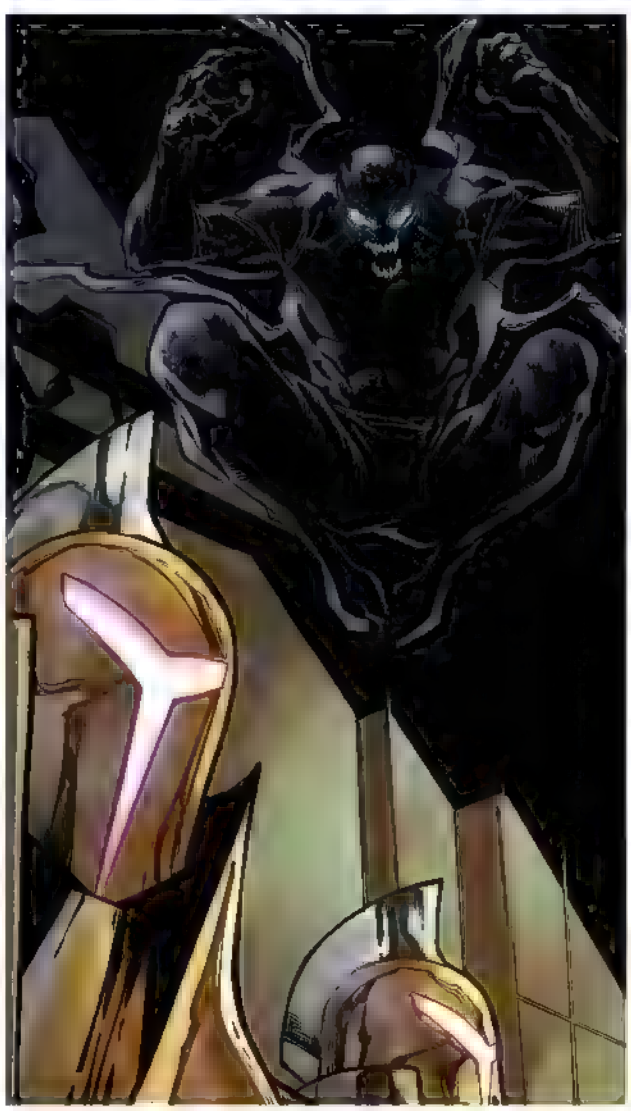
AND THAT WON'T BE EASY BECAUSE CATACLYSM HAS GIFTED SIGNIFICANT POWERS TO EACH OF THE VICEROYS.
MANY OF THEM ARE ENJOYING THEIR NEW-FOUND STATUS.
TELL ME, BARBATOS, HOW MANY SOLDIERS ARE UNDER YOUR COMMAND?
ABOUT TEN THOUSAND.
YOU SAID I WOULD NEED YOU AT MY SIDE.
AND YOU WILL, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN MY PRESENCE WITH YOU IS AS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. IF I'M GOING TO RISK CATACLYSM'S WRATH, IT NEEDS TO BE WORTH MY WHILE.
WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?
TO BE REINSTATED AS THE ROYAL SABRE WITH DOMINION OVER THE 2nd AND 3rd REALMS AGAIN.
A HIGH PRICE JUST 10,000 MEN. I'LL NEED MORE THAN THEM.
TRUE, BUT WITHOUT THEM YOU'LL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FIND NEW RECRUITS.

AND TELL ME, BARBATOS, WHAT'S TO STOP ME FROM SIMPLY KILLING YOU AND TAKING YOUR ENTIRE ARMY?
IN TRUTH? NOTHING AT ALL, BUT YOU'D HAVE TO WONDER HOW THAT WOULD LOOK TO THE *OTHER* EIGHT VICEROYS.
YOU THINK THAT KIND OF ACTION WILL GET THEM ON YOUR SIDE? THEY DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO OVERT THREATS.
THEN I ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST.

FRED TOUNG PENEMUE HE HELD OUT AS LONG AS HE COULD, BUT AFTER SPAWN RIPPED THE FIRST WING FROM HIS BACK, THE FEAR OF LOSING THE SECOND BECAME TOO GREAT
THE BUILDING SPAWN AND HAUNT NEED TO INFILTRATE IS CALLED "THE FORGE" WHERE MANY OF THE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED BY GOD'S ARMY ARE CREATED AND STORED
SO, HE GAVE THEM THE INFORMATION THEY DEMANDED AND MORE
KURT'S BACK
I'D MY RECON . I WASN'T AS BAD AS I EXPECTED PRETTY INTENSE SECURITY BUT I THINK I'VE GOT A ROUTE WE CAN TAKE

"MOST OF THE SECURITY SEEMS TO BE STATIONED OUTSIDE. I TOOK A LOOK INSIDE AND THERE'S NOT NEARLY AS MANY GUARDS THERE.
"THEY'VE STORED THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT ACROSS SIX FLOORS. THE MAIN ACCESS POINT IS ON THE TENTH. THE DOORS TO IT CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY ONE OF THE SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS. WE'LL NEED TO GET OUR HANDS ON ONE OF THEM."
"ONCE WE'RE INSIDE WE'LL STILL NEED TO GET PAST A FEW DEFENSE SYSTEMS BUT THEY SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE.


"ONCE THEY OPEN THE DOOR WE HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE STORAGE CENTER. THERE'S TWO GUARDS OUTSIDE
" WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THEM EASILY ENOUGH



"I ESTIMATE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IN AND OUT IN 20 MINUTES

"BY THE TIME ANYONE NOTICES WE'VE BEEN HERE WE'LL BE LONG GONE."

THEY GRAB THEIR ADMINISTRATOR
IF YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME, WHICH OF THESE WOULD YOU USE?
I'VE SEEN THEM USE THAT ONE...
...THEY CALL IT THE 'DIVINE JUDGEMENT.' IT'S BEEN USED TO KILL HUNDREDS LIKE YOU.
THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.
NOW, WHERE DO YOU STORE YOUR ANTIDOTES?

ANTIDOTES? WE DON'T KEEP THOSE HERE.
WHAT?!
NOT HERE, I SWEAR.
CHEMICAL WEAPONS WERE STORED HERE BUT THAT DEPARTMENT MOVED TO THE PURIFIER'S CITADEL.
THEN WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY?
THEN WE NEED TO GET MOVING. JUST LEAVE HIM, HAUNT.
HE'S LYING! I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL
DON'T MOVE!
CONTROL, SEND BACK-UP TO MY LOCATION! IMMEDIATELY!

phit
phit
phit
WE'VE DELAYED LONG ENOUGH, TIME TO GO!
!
SLIT
ATTENTION! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK. ALL AVAILABLE PERSONNEL HEAD TO FLOOR TEN!
"WALK ME THROUGH IT AGAIN, HOW DID THEY BREECH THE FACILITY IN THE FIRST PLACE?"

WE'RE STILL LOOKING INTO THAT AT THE MOMENT, RIGHT NOW MOST OF OUR EFFORTS ARE FOCUSED ON TRACKING THEM DOWN. WE BELIEVE THEY'RE HIDING OUTSIDE THE CITY BOUNDARIES.
COULDN'T THEY BE SOME OF THE *SPIES* WHO WERE TRAPPED HERE WHEN THE DEAD ZONES CLOSED?
WE CAN'T RULE THAT OUT, BUT I'D BE *SURPRISED* IF SOMEONE HAD BEEN HERE THIS ENTIRE TIME WITHOUT US REALIZING. MOST OF THOSE SPIES WERE APPREHENDED LONG AGO AND THOSE STILL AT LARGE HAVE MOSTLY BEEN IDENTIFIED.
ADDITIONALLY, WE'VE DISCOVERED THE REMAINS OF AN ENTIRE PATROL THAT WERE KILLED NEAR ONE OF THE DEAD ZONE SITES. WE BELIEVE THIS IS HOW THE INTRUDERS ARRIVED INTO HEAVEN.
AND YOU'RE *CERTAIN* THERE WAS A HAUNT THAT WAS WITH THE HELLSPAWN?
YES, RAPTURE.

WONDERFUL.
THEN THAT MEANS WE'VE ALREADY WON.
SEND THE ORDER TO DISPATCH TEAMS TO EACH OF THE DEAD ZONE SITES.
TELL THEM THIS IS A *PRIORITY-ONE* INITIATIVE.

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? WE HAD A DEAL!
AND I'LL HONOR MY SIDE BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S TOO RISKY.
HEAVEN KNOWS WE'RE HERE, THEY'LL BE HUNTING FOR US. OUR GETTING BACK TO ANY DEAD ZONES WILL BE A STRUGGLE. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND TRY AGAIN LATER WHEN THINGS, HOPEFULLY, CALM DOWN.
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME MY BODY'S SHUTTING DOWN
YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT AND TO HELL WITH ME. THAT'S HOW THIS WORKS?
NO! BUT WE NEED TO BE SMART ABOUT...
HAUNT SUDDENLY CONVULSES
DANNY, YOU ALRIGHT?

1:5:9:6

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS: MAILBAG

Hi, I just read the latest issue of Spawn, #338 to be exact. I just wanted to extend my appreciation towards the team for another great issue. I love how you guys brought back Nyx so perfectly. And not only that, but I just loved and appreciated all the story that went into this past issue. I found that it filled so many gaps that I was questioning throughout many of the previous issues. Rory McConville is a genius. Not to mention the absolute gorgeous artwork by Carlo Barberi. Man, I just can't tell you how much I'm enjoying Spawn right now, it's just firing on all cylinders. Scorched/Spawn/Gunslinger & King Spawn incredible storylines, and incredible artwork. Keep up the good work Spawn Team.

-BRANDON W

Well, that is certainly some High-Praise; thank you very much, Brandon. I will make sure to pass your letter on to the creative teams. I'm glad you liked that Nyx is back. Rory and I were going back and forth on that for a while, trying to find the best way to bring her back as well as making her an intricate part of the world and not just another sidekick. And you are right; Carlo is doing an incredible job on the art. I can't wait for you to see what we have planned next!

-THOMAS

I just wanted to drop a quick line and say that I'm returning as a reader after a decades-long absence from the book. After Batman/Spawn back a few months back, I've been delving into years of back issues with no abandon. I'm also playing catch-up so I can enjoy the series as it happens. I not only hope we see what Clown's next moves will be after Batman/Spawn, but I'm looking forward to issues 339, 340, and beyond!

-BOB

Welcome back, Bob! We've missed you! There certainly is quite a bit to catch up on. In the meantime, we are quickly approaching Spawn #350! Three Hundred and Fifty issues! That's just crazy to think about. I hope you keep enjoying the books and stick around until we hit that 500-issue mark!

-THOMAS

Hey, Spawn Team! I just want to say thanks for all of the hard work you all put into the Spawn books! It can't be easy putting out four books a month. I love having more Spawn to read now, and the stories are only getting better! I'm a huge fan of the books and just as big of a fan of the Mcfarlane Toys Spawn line. Here's a photo I took of Clown. It'd make my year if it got into the pages of a Spawn book!! Keep up the good work!

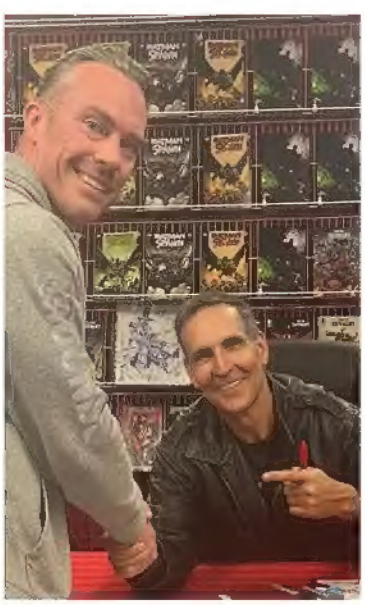
-BOB M

That's a great Clown pic, Bob. Thanks for sending that in. I hope that your day has been made. I also want to say thank you for the kind words about the books, and thanks for being a fan!

-THOMAS

Hello, I saw a thread on Facebook looking for pictures from the signing on Sunday. Here are a few from my phone. What an incredible and kind person Todd is. Such an experience :)

-JOSH



Since we had another letter from Calgary this month, I decided to include this last set of photos from Todd's surprise signing in the Great White North a few weeks ago.Glad you had a chance to meet him. You got some cool signatures for sure!

-THOMAS

Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawninggground@mcfarlane.com

NEED MORE SPAWN'S UNIVERSE?

DON'T MISS THESE ONGOING TITLES:

SPAWN

KING SPAWN

SCORCHED

GUNSLINGER

FEATURING CONNECTING COVERS BY MARK BROOKS IN APRIL!

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